United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea SPLOS/76

Meeting of States Parties

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New York, 16-26 April 2002

Letter dated 12 April 2002 from the Chairman of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf addressed to the President of the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties

1. The President of the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (14-18 May 2001), noted at that Meeting that because the Commission had not been established at the time the Meeting of States Parties adopted its Rules of Procedure, no formal relationship existed between the Meeting of States Parties and the Commission, as it did with the other two entities established by the Convention, namely the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the International Seabed Authority, which enjoyed observer status. Since States Parties had displayed great interest in the activities of the Commission, the President was of the view that the Meeting of States Parties might wish to establish such a relationship and grant observer status to the Commission (SPLOS/73, para. 60).

2. The members of the Commission view the Meeting of States Parties as a forum which plays an important role in the implementation by States of article 76 and Annex II of the Convention. In the past the Commission considered it its duty to consult the Meeting on such important issues, inter alia, as submissions in case of a dispute between States with opposite or adjacent coasts or in other cases of unresolved land or maritime disputes. The Commission is particularly grateful for the successful role played by the Meeting in the establishment of two voluntary trust funds pertaining to the work of the Commission.

3. At the ninth session of the Commission (21-25 May 2001), which immediately followed the Eleventh Meeting, the members of the Commission agreed with the view expressed by the President of the Eleventh Meeting, that granting observer status to the Commission might be beneficial to the relationship between it and the Meeting of States Parties and requested the Chairman of the Commission to address a letter to the President of the Meeting of States Parties seeking observer status at this body (CLCS/29, para. 22).

4. Therefore, as Chairman of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, I would like to convey to the Meeting of States Parties the view of the

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Commission that it would welcome the granting of observer status to it at the Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

(*Signed*) Yuri B. **Kazmin**
Chairman of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

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